

Message Text

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13
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 SAI-01 DHA-02 ORM-02 /058 W
----- 115515

O R 160751Z NOV 76
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1018
INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 17926

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, UR
SUBJECT: CHARGES DROPPED AGAINST ASS AND CHERNOBIL'SKIY

REF: MOSCOW 17002

1. ACCORDING TO UNOFFICIAL SOVIET SOURCES, ASS AND CHERNOBIL'SKIY--THE TWO REMAINING JEWISH "REFUSENIKS" DETAINED FOR PARTICIPATING IN THE SUPREME SOVIET SIT-IN LAST MONTH--WERE RELEASED FROM PRISON THE EVENING OF NOV 15. ASS AND CHERNOBIL'SKIY REPORTEDLY WERE TOLD THAT ALTHOUGH THE CHARGES AGAINST THEM HAD BEEN PROVEN, IT HAD BEEN DECIDED NOT TO PRESS CHARGES BECAUSE NEITHER MAN HAD A CRIMINAL RECORD AND BECAUSE "BOTH HAD SMALL CHILDREN."

2. OUR SOURCES DESCRIBED THIS DEVELOPMENT AS "UNPRECE-
DENTED," AND SAID THEY BELIEVED WESTERN PRESSURE CAUSED SOVIET AUTHORITIES TO RELEASE THE TWO MEN.

3. COMMENT. WE WOULD NOT RULE OUT THE POSSIBILITY THAT SOVIET AUTHORITIES--OBVIOUSLY AWARE OF PRESIDENT-ELECT CARTER'S TELEGRAM TO SLEPAK REGARDING THE SUPREME SOVIET SIT-IN, AND SLEPAK'S REPLY --DECIDED TO RELEASE ASS AND CHERNOBIL'SKIY AT LEAST IN PART AS A GESTURE
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OF GOODWILL TOWARD THE PRESIDENT-ELECT.

MATLOCK

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, DETENTION, JEWS, ARRESTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 NOV 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MOSCOW17926
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760426-1257
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761144/aaaabmff.tel
Line Count: 62
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 MOSCOW 17002
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 MAY 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <05 MAY 2004 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CHARGES DROPPED AGAINST ASS AND CHERNOBIL'SKIY
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, UR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006